

MISSION MOMENT: Letting Love *Grow* in Nicaragua



René Bermúdez and his son René Camilo

Imagine not knowing where your next meal will come from. Imagine the constant fear of political unrest. Imagine working hard to produce crops to feed your family and earn a living. Also imagine constantly battling the effects of climate change. Imagine all the obstacles farmers face to get their crops to harvest, and then to market. Then, imagine all these things happening – at once.

In Nicaragua families find it harder to believe that there will come a day when they do not hunger or thirst. For many, food security can seem like an unattainable goal. But through a partnership

with many organizations such as: Growing Hope Globally, a respected local organization CIEETS, and CWS, the United Church of Christ is helping families to thrive despite such adversity.

René Bermúdez (shown) is working hard to ensure that his family has enough to eat and he has a way to earn a living. Rene is raising stingless Melipona bees, which produce medicinal honey that he can sell. Through the program, he learned about poultry raising and has started raising chickens – and now has forty hens that produce eggs, plus another 140 that he is preparing to sell!

Like René, several of the families there have lost several harvests to the effects of climate change. Farmers in their community found that when it rains too much, the crops die from disease or are washed away. When it doesn't rain enough, they dry up. Either way, farmers lose everything.

Your generous gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing will help farmers continue to build a sustainable life – without hunger or thirst – as they learn new ways to produce food and income. Please give generously so they will continue to reap the harvest of God's love growing in their communities.

MISSION MOMENT: *Letting Love Flow Through Springs of Clean Water*



Hanh (right) and her friends wash their hands at school.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us many things about what it means to be a global community. One of the most basic things we've been constantly reminded of is the importance of – *washing our hands* – in the battle to prevent infectious disease.

Hanh and her mom live in a poor rural village about 135 miles northwest of Vietnam's capital, Hanoi. Hanh had no idea what a toilet was. Where she lives, people still use fields, bushes, and streams as their bathrooms.

This situation is all too common in many places in rural Vietnam and across southeast Asia.

In September of 2018, latrine and water supply improvements were brought to Hanh's school. Since then, Hanh and her friends have had an exciting time experiencing modern latrines and clean water taps...and

how these conveniences lead to better hygiene and, ultimately, better health.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are providing clean water for drinking and sanitation to children like Hanh and her schoolmates. As God's compassion flows through you, your gifts will bring the promise of better health to children. Please give generously to support this important work.